

# Want to speak a little "Transportation?"

**Arterial.** A major street that primarily serves through-traffic and provides access to bordering properties.

**Bus, Feeder.** A bus service that picks up and delivers passengers to a bus rapid transit station, park-and-ride or express bus stop.

**Bus rapid transit.** BRT uses priority lanes, enhanced bus stations, and new vehicle technology to give buses the same features of rail but at a substantially lower cost. Dedicated bus lanes, traffic signal priority systems, special access ramps on existing roads and freeways allow BRT vehicles to speed past traffic congestion to provide reliable travel times.

**Bus transit center.** Major bus stop or station at the meeting point of several routes. Designed to facilitate passenger transfers (e.g. passenger waiting areas) and accommodate numerous buses.

**Capacity.** Maximum sustained traffic flow of a transportation facility, expressed in passenger cars per hour per lane, under prevailing traffic and roadway conditions in a specified direction.

**Capacity-related projects.** Projects that increase the number of vehicles or people that can be served by a transportation facility.

**Centers.** Compact, well-defined areas to which a mix of higher-density growth or intensive land uses will be directed, connected and served by an efficient, transit-oriented, multi-modal transportation system.

**Collector-distributor lanes.** Freeway lanes serving single or multiple interchanges that are physically separated from general freeway lanes. The purpose of collector-distributor lanes is to separate the through traffic from the traffic entering and exiting the freeway.

**Commuter.** A person who travels regularly between home and work or school.

**Commute Trip Reduction Program (1991).** A program to reduce traffic congestion, air pollution and petroleum consumption through employer-based programs that decrease the number of SOV trips. The law affects employers in nine counties who have 100 or more full-time employees at a single worksite who begin work between 6 to 9 a.m.

**Compact development.** Relative density or intensity of development in a given area.

**Comprehensive Plan.** Generalized, coordinated land use policy statement of the City Council adopted under the Growth Management Act (GMA) to guide future city decision making.

**Concurrence points.** Key milestones within the "Reinventing NEPA" process for which formal written concurrence must be received from participating agencies.

**Concurrency.** A provision of the Washington State Growth Management Act (GMA) that requires local jurisdictions to adopt and enforce ordinances precluding approval of a proposed development if that development would cause the level-of-service of a transportation facility to fall below the jurisdiction's adopted standard, unless transportation improvements or strategies to accommodate the impacts of the development are made within six years (concurrent with) the development.

**Congestion.** Unstable traffic flows that prohibit movement on a transportation facility at optimal legal speeds. Recurring congestion is caused by constant excess volume compared with capacity.

**Consensus points.** Decision points within the "Reinventing NEPA" process where substantial agreement (not necessarily unanimity) must be reached with the participating agencies.

**Cumulative effect.** Effects on the environment that result from incremental consequences of an action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions.

**Density/Intensity.** A term often used interchangeably. Density refers to the number of housing units or square feet of commercial space per unit of land, usually per acre. Intensity refers to the level or concentration of activity occurring on a site or in an area.

**Environment.** The sum of all external conditions affecting the life, development and survival of an organism.

**Environmental Assessment (EA).** A preliminary written environmental analysis required by NEPA to determine whether a federal activity would significantly affect the environment; may require preparation of a more detailed environmental impact statement.

**Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).** A document that identifies and analyzes, in detail, environmental impacts of a proposed action. As a tool for decision-making, the EIS describes positive and negative effects and lists alternatives for an undertaking.

**Environmental mitigation measures.** Measures taken to reduce adverse effects on the environment, which are usually implemented under State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) or National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

**Express lane.** Separate freeway lanes with limited interchanges, typically no more than one every 3-4 miles.

**General purpose (GP) lane.** A freeway or arterial lane available for use by all traffic.

**Growth Management Act (GMA).** Washington State legislation passed in 1990 that requires long-range comprehensive plans prepared by cities and counties to be balanced with supporting transportation infrastructure (RCW 36.70A).

**High-Capacity Transit (HCT).** Transit systems operating, in whole or part, on a fixed-guideway dedicated right-of-way or freeway/express facility, designed to carry a large number of riders at higher speeds than conventional transit. Examples include express bus on HOV lanes, passenger ferry service and light and heavy rail systems.

**High-Occupancy Vehicle (HOV).** A vehicle carrying two or more people. The minimum number of vehicle occupants required to qualify for HOV lane use may vary depending on the congestion levels and capacity of the HOV lane and the surrounding road system.

**High-Occupancy/Toll lane (HOT lane).** Signifies a lane (typically on a freeway) that is managed to restrict use by different modes through the use of time-of-day tolls.

**Intermodal.** Accommodation or interconnection of various transportation modes both for the movement of people and goods.

**Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS).** The application of advanced technology to current transportation problems, including incident detection, signal coordination, real-time information and other technology.

**Jurisdiction.** A municipal government agency such as a city or county. As appropriate, the term "jurisdiction" also includes federal and state agencies and federally recognized tribes.

**Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP).** A detailed long-range plan for future investments in the central Puget Sound region's regional transportation system, including roads, transit, marine (state ferries), freight and goods, non-motorized transportation and aviation. For state planning purposes, the MTP is the region's Regional Transportation Plan.

**Mitigation measures.** Actions taken to reduce adverse effects on the environment, usually implemented under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) and/or the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

**Mixed-use development.** Complementary land uses located within a single structure or in close proximity to one another and connected by safe, direct walkways.

**Mode.** A particular form of travel. Typically transportation modes include driving alone (SOV), carpooling (HOV), non-motorized (walking, jogging, biking), or riding transit (light rail or commuter rail).

**Mode split.** The percentage of persons using different travel modes typically described for autos, transit and non-motorized modes.

**Modeling.** Use of mathematical equations to simulate and predict real events and processes.

**Monitoring.** Periodic or continuous surveillance or testing to determine the level of compliance with statutory requirements and/or pollutant levels.

**Multi-modal.** Concerning or involving more than one transportation mode.

**Non-motorized.** Referring to bicycle, pedestrian and other modes of transportation not involving a motor vehicle.

**Off-Peak Period.** Non-rush periods of the day when travel is lower and less transit service is scheduled.

**Parking management.** Action taken to alter parking supply, operation and/or demand.

**Peak period.** Period of the day during which the maximum amount of travel occurs. It may be specified as morning (a.m.), afternoon or evening (p.m.) peak.

**Principal arterial.** A street that serves primarily long trips, connecting to freeways and important activity centers. Free-flow speeds typically range between 35 and 45 mph.

**Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC).** The Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RTPO) for the central Puget Sound region. The MPO/RTPO is the legally mandated forum for cooperative transportation decision-making in a metropolitan planning area.

**Record of Decision (ROD).** A document prepared by a federal agency presenting the basis for the decision reached after completion of the Final EIS, summarizing any mitigation measures that will be incorporated into the project, and documenting any required Section 4(f) approval.

**Screenline.** An imaginary line crossing roadways and other transportation facilities, and used as a reference point for measuring or reporting travel volumes.

**State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA).** State legislation passed in 1974, which establishes an environmental review process for all development projects and major planning studies, prior to taking any action on these projects. SEPA permits early coordination to identify and mitigate any significant issues or impacts which may result from a project or study.

**Single-occupant vehicle (SOV).** A vehicle with only one occupant (i.e., the driver).

**Transit-Oriented Development (TOD).** A land use pattern that emphasizes clustered transit-intensive land uses with higher densities of development. It typically is focused along high-capacity transit routes, and is designed to encourage modes of travel other than the private automobile by locating residential, commercial and employment development in close proximity to each other.

**Transit station community.** Diverse mix of activities focused around a transit station and where people live and work.

**Transportation Demand Management (TDM).** Institutional and operational methods to reduce travel demand on the transportation system. TDM strategies are usually implemented to support the use of HOVs, and typically include carpool, vanpool and public transit programs.

**Transportation System Management (TSM).** The application of construction, operational and regulatory or legislative actions to provide the most cost-effective use of existing transportation facilities.

**Vanpool.** An arrangement in which a group of passengers share the use and cost of a van in traveling to and from pre-arranged destinations together, generally work related.

**Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT).** Measure of the extent of motor vehicle operation; total number of vehicle miles traveled within a specific geographic area over a given period of time.

**VISION 2020.** The Puget Sound region's strategic growth management and transportation plan prepared by the Puget Sound Regional Council.

**Volume/Capacity (V/C).** The ratio of vehicle volumes to roadway capacity typically used as an indicator of roadway level of service.